



EAST CENTRAL

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2017-2018 President's Report

President's Message

Turning Opportunities Into Successes

We are pleased to bring you this 2017-2018 *President's Report*, a look back at the past year at East Central Community College.

As you will read inside this report, it has been a year of great progress and significant accomplishments, while dealing with the challenges associated with significant reductions in state appropriations. You may recall from last year's *President's Report* that the college instituted a number of revenue increases and expenditure reductions to offset an estimated \$1.3 million reduction in state appropriations for the 2017-18 fiscal year.



I am extremely proud of our faculty, staff, and students for turning these challenges into opportunities, and those opportunities into successes. I'm also thankful as always for the tremendous support this past year—financial and otherwise—of our alumni and friends. Together, we again have achieved great things.

One accomplishment about which you will read on the pages that follow is the successful completion and acceptance of the college's Fifth-Year Interim Report as required by our accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The report, along with our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Impact Report, was accepted by SACSCOC with no additional information requested for compliance. It is uncommon for an institution to have a report that does not require additional information or reports be submitted in order to be judged in compliance. This is a major accomplishment for ECCC, and one that should be celebrated by all of us.

However, it also means that it's time to begin focusing on our 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC, and we are doing just that. We will begin this planning process in early 2020, with a deadline to submit the compliance certification report being spring 2021. The peer review committee site visit will be in fall 2021. In addition, ECCC's next QEP plan will be due to SACSCOC in late summer or early fall 2021.

This 10-year review by SACSCOC also coincides with the conclusion of our **2020 Vision** strategic plan, which was adopted by the college in February 2013. Therefore, we will soon begin work on a new strategic plan to chart ECCC's future beyond 2020. This process will involve input from all stakeholders of the college, including our alumni and friends. So as you can see, we are excited about the present, all the while focusing on our future.

I hope you will take a few moments to read this year in review and the good news it brings about our college.

Thank you for your continued support of East Central Community College. Even as we look back with much pride, we look forward to the upcoming academic year with much enthusiasm and momentum!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy W. Stewart".

Dr. Billy W. Stewart
President

21.3

Average student age

The average age of an ECCC student was 21.3 years, making it the second youngest community or junior college in the state.

70.6%

Enrolled full-time

ECCC had the highest percentage of students—70.6 percent—enrolled in at least 15 hours in a fall or spring semester among all Mississippi community and junior colleges.

Degrees earned

594

In 2017-18, ECCC conferred 594 degrees or certificates, the second highest total in the college's history and a 5 percent increase over the previous year's total of 567.



56%

Freshmen awarded financial aid

ECCC granted institutional aid to a larger percentage of incoming freshman students—56 percent of first-time, full-time students—as compared to the state community and junior college average of 40 percent.



40%

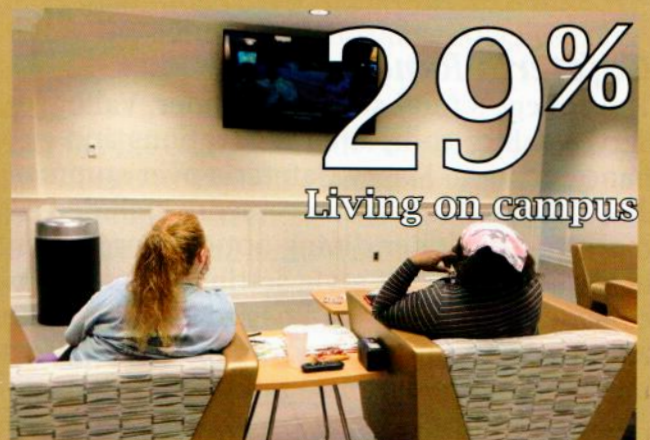
Graduation rate

ECCC's next published three-year graduation rate, anticipated sometime in the early fall of 2018, is expected to reflect a 40 percent rate. Just five years ago, that rate was 24 percent.

ECCC had the highest percentage of students living in on-campus residential housing of all Mississippi community and junior colleges. In 2017-18, as many as 743, or 29 percent, of students lived in an EC on-campus residence hall.

29%

Living on campus



ECCC was No. 4 among all Mississippi community and junior colleges in the percentage of in-district students. The 2017-18 percentage of 82.2 % was an increase over the previous year's 81.9 percent. In addition, 97.6 percent of EC students hailed from the state of Mississippi, the third highest percentage in the state.



In-district students

82.2%

5.4%

Dual credit production

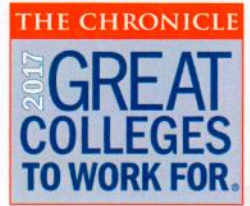
COLLEGE

HIGH SCHOOL

5.4 percent of ECCC's total credit hour production consisted of dual credit offerings at district high schools. This constituted the second highest percentage among all Mississippi community and junior colleges.

Great College to Work For

For the second straight year, East Central Community College was named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for in an annual survey of more than 45,000 college and university employees by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. ECCC was one of only three community colleges in Mississippi and one of only 22 two-year schools in the nation to be honored by *The Chronicle*.



Rural Scholars

Of the 48 students selected for the highly competitive Mississippi Rural Physicians and Rural Dentists scholarship programs in the past two years, eight have been East Central Community College graduates. It's a prestigious reward for students who will one day return to their rural roots to practice medicine or dentistry. Two May 2017 ECCC graduates were accepted into the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program and two were invited into the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

Women's Foundation Grant

East Central received a \$50,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Mississippi for implementation of a Women's Emergency Assistance Fund that provides emergency funds for transportation or auto repairs, childcare, medical expenses, and other temporary financial needs to help women stay in school.

Cafeteria Renovation

The college's food service provider, Valley Services, Inc., completed renovations and enhancements to Mabry Cafeteria over summer 2017. Some of the enhancements included more and healthier dining options for students in a true restaurant-style setting, monitors located along the serving lines to provide menu and nutrition information, and expanded seating to accommodate 100 more diners.



Friday Night Recruiting

East Central student recruiters once again attended high school football games to visit with prospective students, parents, and others interested in the college. Student recruiters visited high schools in all five counties of the college's district during fall 2017.



New Women's Residence Hall

East Central dedicated its New Women's Residence Hall in August, just prior to the opening of the new school year. The \$6.6 million New Women's Residence Hall was funded using bond revenue and with financial support from each of the five counties in the college's district. The modern, three-story facility includes 56 rooms, a study area and a kitchen on each floor for student use, a coin-operated laundry room, wireless internet and cable TV, a lobby area with a television, and social and study spaces for the residents.

Scholarship Recognition

Numerous ECCC students were recipients of endowed and annual scholarships and were recognized during a reception in August in the Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on campus. A record 144 scholarships valued at \$132,000 were presented during the 2017 event. Six new endowed scholarships and three new annual scholarships were funded this year.



Dual Credit Tiered-Tuition Rate

Responding to a need in its five-county district, ECCC created a pilot program of a tiered-tuition rate for its Dual Credit Program. Under the pilot program, high school students taking dual credit courses taught by the local high school instructor on the campus of the local high school pay \$100 tuition for each three-hour course and \$125 tuition for each four-hour course. The tuition cost includes the instructional materials required for the course—either textbooks or access codes to online materials and e-books.

July
2017

August

September

October

November

December

January
2018

February

March

April

May

June

National Affordability Ranking

East Central was ranked No. 29 among all community colleges in the nation for both quality and affordability in a study by AffordableColleges.com. "East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi, is a notably affordable institution to earn an associate degree. ... Combining cheap rates with high quality, ECCC is one of the best community colleges in the region," wrote the editors at AffordableColleges.com.



Warrior Wellness Grant

Continued grant funding from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation allowed the college to expand efforts to create and sustain a culture of wellness on campus through Warrior Wellness. The \$92,588 grant was used to continue the full-time Wellness Coordinator position, expand specialized scheduled classes offered free to students and taught by qualified instructors, begin offering selected classes to the public, offer for-credit Health, Physical Education, and Recreation courses, increase supervised access to the Wellness Center with part-time assistance, and implement an annual ECCC Warrior Wellness Week.

Warrior Wellness Week

ECCC held its first Warrior Wellness Week in September with fun and educational events and activities. Among the events was a daily Warrior Worship featuring spiritual messages and a healthy breakfast; "EC Warriors Out for Blood" blood drive competition; Glow Run; "Chopped: Smoothie Edition," where student teams competed to make the healthiest smoothie; and a presentation on healthy eating tips and control of personal health.

Oliphant-Martin Grants

The inaugural Oliphant-Martin Faculty Excellence Fund Grants totaling \$20,000 were awarded in September. A \$5,000 grant was awarded to the Science Division for active learning models, to the Automotive Technology and Collision Repair Technology programs for oscilloscopes and scan tools, to the Business and Office Technology Program for learning lab improvements, and to the Practical Nursing Program for intravenous arms. The fund was established in 1997 and renamed in 2010 to the Oliphant-Martin Faculty Excellence Fund to acknowledge generous contributions by Dr. Beverly (Henry) Oliphant-Martin '58 and her husband, John Martin.



Thursday Homecoming

East Central held its 2017 Homecoming Celebration on a Thursday for the first time in many years and it was a tremendous success. College records indicate it was probably the first Homecoming held on a Thursday since October 1948. Four outstanding alumni were honored including U.S. Congressman Trent Kelly of Saltillo and Union Elementary School principal Deanna Rush of Union, Alumnus and Alumna of the Year; and Scott County School District Athletics Director Jeff Breland of Lake and Chicago White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.



Warrior Wellness Symposium

Dr. Shea Hailey and Dr. Mike McMullan, two noted cardiologists with strong ties to East Central, presented the college's Warrior Wellness Symposium. The physicians also spoke to science faculty and students interested in pre-med and other health-related careers. McMullan, a native of Decatur, is professor of medicine and chief of cardiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Hailey, a native of Union who graduated from East Central, is an interventional cardiologist at the Cardiovascular Institute of the South in Meridian.

ACT Scholarship Enhancements

ECCC dramatically increased the value of the scholarships it awards at various ACT composite score levels to provide greater financial support to more students. Beginning fall 2018, incoming freshman students who enroll full-time the fall semester immediately following high school graduation or the first regular semester after having received the high school equivalency, receive the following scholarship awards based on ACT score: ACT Composite Score 20-23—Dean's Award, one-half tuition per semester; ACT Composite Score 24-28—President's Award, full tuition per semester; or ACT Composite Score 29-36—Board of Trustees Award, full scholarship of tuition, room, and board per semester.

MI-BEST Student of the Year

Jackie Hamm of Newton was selected the MI-BEST Student of the Year at ECCC. Hamm was also the college's first graduate of the MI-BEST program, receiving her degree in collision repair technology in May 2018. MI-BEST allows qualified applicants to take the courses they need to prepare for the high school equivalency exam while at the same time training for jobs in several fields.

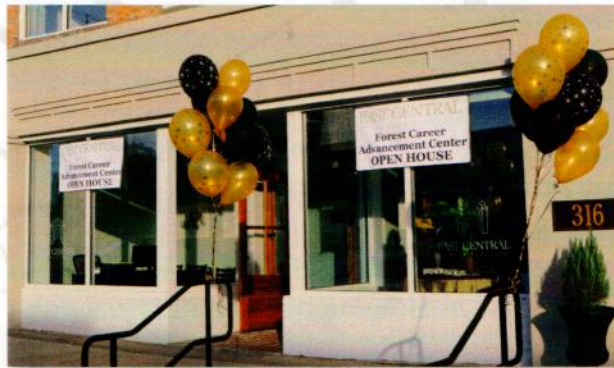


Families First Grant

ECCC was awarded a Mississippi Crossroads Consortium Families First Grant to assist students in achieving the skills necessary for middle skill jobs. The Crossroads Consortium is a collaboration between East Central and four other Mississippi community colleges to provide incentives and financial assistance for students to obtain the education and credentials to qualify for middle skill jobs, which nearly all new companies and most existing companies in Mississippi have.

Special Needs Prom

The college's Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa hosted "Fairy Tale Ball" in November, its second annual prom for special needs students. Continuing the organization's Honors in Action program which began last year, Theta Xi invited students who receive special services from schools in the ECCC district to attend. Theta Xi members raised the money to stage the prom through various fundraisers and the help of area businesses that purchased sponsorships and donated prom dresses. The special needs students attending were served a meal and received prom party favors. East Central students served as their dates.



Forest Career Advancement Center

East Central opened its Forest Career Advancement Center in November. The college is leasing a building in Forest thanks to federal grant monies provided through the Mississippi Community College Board's Office of Adult Education. It gives the college a presence in all five counties it serves. High school equivalency classes, workforce training opportunities, and potentially evening for-credit academic courses are among the uses for the center.

Military Appreciation Breakfast

Major Gen. Janson D. Boyles, Adjutant General of Mississippi, was guest speaker when ECCC honored military veterans at the annual Military Appreciation Breakfast in November. An overflow crowd of local veterans attended.

Off-Campus Registration

ECCC instructional counselors again visited four of the college's off-site centers in Carthage, Forest, Louisville, and Choctaw in both November and April to assist students with spring and fall 2018 course registration.



Clean 5th-Year SACSCOC Report

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the accrediting body for ECCC, accepted the college's Fifth-Year Interim Report, along with its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Impact Report, with no additional information requested to be in compliance. Institutions accredited by SACSCOC must seek reaffirmation of that accreditation every 10 years, which requires an off-site campus visit by a peer committee and submission of a five-year QEP designed to improve student learning or the environment for student success. Titled The Warrior Path to Success, ECCC's QEP was designed to enhance student learning and engagement for first-time, first-semester, full-time, at-risk students enrolled in developmental classes.

Military Friendly Designation

ECCC was designated a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media for the sixth consecutive year. East Central was one of only four community colleges in Mississippi to earn the designation for 2018. Military Friendly® Schools is a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families.



Annual Performance Profile

The annual Community College Performance Profile, or Report Card, as required by the state of Mississippi, once again gave ECCC high marks in several areas. The college ranked at the top in students who graduate on-time, or in two years, and among the top in students who graduate in three years and in overall student success. ECCC was also at the top in percentage of non-degree seeking students, which relates to the college being the highest dual credit provider by percentage in Mississippi. ECCC also ranked in the top five in technical program enrollment. Overall graduation rate, retention of students in for-credit programs, and number of students served through workforce training activities were other areas in which ECCC was among the leaders in the state.



Warrior Wonderland

Another big crowd was on hand for the college's third Warrior Wonderland held in December. A fireworks show kicked off the event before visitors had a variety of activities from which to choose, including new rides this year. A new layout for the event this year proved a success, as the Music Stage drew a large crowd all evening, and guests had easier access to the food tables and the rides and games.

July 2017 August September October November December

January 2018

February March April May June

Highest Enrollment Increases

For the second straight semester in spring 2018, ECCC experienced the highest percentage enrollment increase among the 15 community and junior colleges in the state of Mississippi. The college reported a 10.3 percent increase in unduplicated head count enrollment for the spring 2018 semester, compared to the spring 2017 semester, according to the 10th day enrollment report released by the Mississippi Community College Board. East Central experienced a 10.3 percent increase in unduplicated headcount in fall 2017 which was also the largest among all two-year and four-year schools in Mississippi.

New Women's Soccer Coach

Ryan Joiner, whose teams won three consecutive Mississippi High School Activities Association state championships, was named ECCC's head women's soccer coach. Joiner guided the St. Stanislaus College boys' team to MHSAA Class 4A State Championships in 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16. He came to ECCC from Ocean Springs High School, where he was the girls' coach the past two seasons. Joiner was a standout goalkeeper for Ocean Springs High School before taking his talents to Meridian Community College, where he was All-State and All-Region as a goalkeeper.



Underground Utilities Project

The first phase of a project to place overhead utility lines at ECCC underground was completed. All above-ground electrical, telephone, fiber optic, and other utility lines were placed underground from Broad Street on the front of campus to 10th Street on the north side of campus to improve the aesthetics of campus and to serve as a hazard mitigation project to reduce the risk of damage to property or person during hazardous situations. The majority of funding for the \$1.2 million project was provided through the state of Mississippi.

New Women's Basketball Coach

Former Northwest Mississippi Community College and Ole Miss basketball standout LaTaryl Williams was tabbed as ECCC's new head women's basketball coach. Williams was the assistant coach for the women's team at Holmes Community College the past six seasons. A native of Oxford, he was a standout player for Oxford High School before helping lead Northwest to an appearance in the 1998 NJCAA Final Four. At Ole Miss, he was on the first Rebel basketball team to ever win an NCAA Tournament game in 1999 and on the 2000 team that played in the National Invitational Tournament.



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40% Graduation Rate

ECCC achieved a 40 percent, three-year graduation rate for the first time in over a decade, which is substantially higher than state and national graduation rates. The accomplishment means that 40 percent of first-time, full-time students who enrolled in ECCC in fall 2014 completed a degree or certificate at the college by spring 2017. Of those students not completing a certificate or degree, 21 percent successfully transferred to another postsecondary institution, resulting in a 61 percent graduation plus transfer-out rate. East Central's three-year graduation rate was just 24 percent five years ago.

Top Minority Degree Producer

ECCC was ranked among the top 40 community and junior colleges in the nation in conferring degrees to minorities in two academic areas by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. ECCC was No. 33 among all two-year colleges and schools in the number of associate degrees awarded to African-Americans in Construction Trades and No. 38 in Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences.

HEADWAE Honorees

Sociology instructor Michelle Lee and Reagan Gorgas, a sophomore liberal arts major from Decatur, were chosen as East Central's 2017-18 HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence) honorees. They were honored at an Awards Luncheon at the Jackson Marriott Hotel.



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Lucille Wood Court

The college officially dedicated Lucille Wood Court at the new Tennis Complex on campus. One of the eight courts was named in recognition of Wood thanks to a gift to the college from members of her family. A 1951 graduate of then East Central Junior College, Wood was a two-sport star athlete at East Central who also was a championship-winning coach at her alma mater. A fundraising effort is underway to name the other seven tennis courts.

All-Mississippi Academic Team

Sophomores Laicon Partain of Sebastopol and Reagan Gorgas of Decatur, both graduates of Newton County High School, were named to the 2018 Phi Theta Kappa Community and Junior Colleges All-Mississippi Academic Team, which recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges. Gorgas, who plans to become a physical therapist, was one of 15 students named to the First Team. She received a \$1,000 scholarship. Partain, who also plans to become a physical therapist, was one of 48 students named to the Second Team.



Free FAFSA Assistance

The ECCC Financial Aid Office began offering free assistance with completing the FAFSA for students interested in attending college in fall 2018. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a form that must be completed annually by prospective and current college students to determine their eligibility for federal financial aid. The ECCC Financial Aid Office designated every Friday as "FAFSA Friday" when a FAFSA counselor was available to assist with applying for both federal and state aid.

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2017 2018



Academic Hall of Fame

The six newest members of the college's Hall of Fame were recognized at the 2018 ECCC Awards Day ceremony in April. Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college. Hall of Fame inductees for 2018 were Mackenzie Johnson of Nanih Waiya, Jessica Everett of Decatur, Reagan Gorgas of Decatur, Makaeya Brock of Decatur, Marlee Parkes of Nanih Waiya, and Peyton Ryals of Louisville.

SkillsUSA Success

Numerous ECCC Career & Technical students took top honors in the Mississippi SkillsUSA competition in Jackson, including first place in six categories. Those receiving first place honors competed in the 2018 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky., in June, and placed as high as third in Early Childhood Education, fourth in Job Interview, and sixth in Prepared Speech. SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization of high school, college and middle school students and professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.



Nation's Largest PBL Chapter

The college's Theta Chi chapter of Phi Beta Lambda was again named the largest community college chapter in the nation, and third largest among all two-year and four-year institutions. There are more than 500 PBL chapters on college campuses across the United States. East Central's chapter has 178 members, the largest membership in the chapter's history. Phi Beta Lambda is a national business education association for students interested in careers in business and business-related fields. It is the largest career student organization in the world.

PBL State Honors

Members of the college's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (pictured at right) received top honors during the State Leadership Conference in 16 categories, including first place in nine categories. Theta Chi also received first place in raising funds for the March of Dimes, first place in Mississippi for the largest local chapter, received Foundation Recognition and was recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter. Inducted in the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame were Jessica Everett of Decatur and Khalil Triplett and Kiara Cunningham, both of Philadelphia, for their first place national recognition in Small Business Plan during the 2017 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

DECA Students Recognized

East Central DECA students received various awards during state competition, including first place finishes in Fashion Merchandising and Marketing and in Sports and Entertainment Marketing and second place in International Marketing. Those students advanced to national competition in Washington, D.C. DECA is an international association of students and teachers of marketing, management, and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service.



State Tennis Champion

ECCC's Bethany Wellman won the 2018 MACJC/NJCAA Region 23 Tournament titles at No. 5 Singles in Meridian. Wellman, a freshman who prepped at Newton County Academy, entered the tournament as the No. 1 Seed at No. 5 Singles and finished the spring season with a perfect 13-0 record against state competition.

Ivy League Commitment

ECCC basketball player Thurston McCarty, a 6-7 guard out of Quitman High School, committed to attend Ivy League school Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where he will also play basketball for the Big Red. He is believed to be the first Warrior athlete to continue their playing career at an Ivy League school. McCarty averaged nearly 13 points and five rebounds per game last season.

'Welty' Exhibit

"Welty", an exhibit featuring photographs by Eudora Welty, was on display in the college's Burton Library during April and open to the public free of charge. During the early 1930s, Welty traveled across Mississippi as a publicist for the Works Progress Administration and used the opportunity to take hundreds of photographs of her native state. The exhibit juxtaposes some of those photographs with excerpts from her writing to show the relationship between her source material and her writing.



State Sports Hall of Fame

Sue Gunter, a pioneer in women's collegiate athletics and a standout basketball player East Central Junior College, was posthumously inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame in April. At her retirement, Gunter was listed as the third winningest women's basketball coach in history with an overall record of 708-308, which included coaching stints at Middle Tennessee, Stephen F. Austin and Louisiana State University, where she is the all-time winningest coach. She is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, and ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

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Instructor of the Year

Biological sciences instructor Sharon LeJeune Fisher was selected as the 2017-18 Instructor of the Year at ECCC. She began her tenure at ECCC in 2002 and has been honored many times during her 32 years as a classroom instructor, including HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year twice, Lamplighter award, and ECCC's Instructor of the Year in 2004.

Collision Repair Scholarship

ECCC student Shelby Withers of Carthage was awarded a \$2,000 Lon Baudoux Legacy Scholarship and a Sears Vo-Tech Tool Grant presented by the Collision Repair Education Foundation. Withers, a graduate of Leake Academy, recently completed his first year in the ECCC Collision Repair Technology program. To be eligible for this much sought-after award, applicants must have plans for a career in collision repair.

Commencement

In all, 594 students completed a degree, certificate or career program at East Central during 2017-18, a 5 percent increase over the previous year. More than 330 of those graduates participated in the 2018 Commencement Ceremony May 4 at the Neshoba County Coliseum. Those participating in the program included graduating sophomores Reagan Gorgas of Decatur, who was the commencement speaker; Peyton Ryals of Louisville, benediction; and Demetreuna Rankin of Forest, invocation.



Warrior Golf Classic Success

A record was set in money raised at the 17th Annual East Central Community College Warrior Golf Classic held May 11 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw. Sponsored by the ECCC Alumni Association, the four-person scramble set a new record for revenue to student scholarships. More than \$12,000 was collected for the scholarship fund from the 103 golfers who participated and the 33 companies and businesses, both inside and outside of the ECCC district, who served as sponsors.





Golf 12th Nationally

Led by the play of freshman Jacob Hamner, the ECCC golf team finished in 12th place at the 2018 NJCAA Division II Golf Championships held in May at GlenLakes Golf Club in Foley, Ala. It was the first-ever appearance by an ECCC golf team in the national championship tournament. Hamner, who prepped at Vanderbilt Catholic High School in Houma, La., finished in 13th place among all players and in doing so was named NJCAA Second Team All-American. Head Golf Coach Chris Clark was named the MACJC Golf Co-Coach of the Year and the Mississippi Association of Coaches Community College Golf Co-Coach of the Year for 2017-18.



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New Director of Athletics

Longtime women's collegiate basketball coach Paul Nixon assumed his duties in June as the new Director of Athletics at ECCC. Nixon most recently was an associate academic dean at Concorde Career College in Memphis. He coached women's basketball at the collegiate level for 22 years, including serving as the head women's coach at Columbia University in New York City from 2005-13.

Kids' College

East Central again offered an array of activities for youth ages 5-12 at the annual Kids' College on campus (photo at right). Sessions included Lil' Warrior Tennis, 3D Computer Modeling, Mad Scientists, Painting and Drawing, Lil' Warrior Soccer, and Out of This World Cuisine.



New Degree Programs

ECCC announced it had been approved by SACSCOC to begin offering Criminal Justice Technology and Cyber Security Technology in fall 2018. The Criminal Justice Technology program will provide students with the skill base necessary to become professionals in law enforcement, corrections, and other criminal justice fields. The Cyber Security Technology program will provide students with the skill base necessary to become professionals in network administration, network support specialist, computer network defense, intrusion detection systems, red team technician, and penetration testing. Those completing either program will earn an Associate in Applied Science degree, with options available for a career or technical certificate.

New Softball Coach

Eric Neel, who coached high school girls' fast pitch softball teams to five state championships, was named ECCC's new softball coach. He joined the Lady Warrior program after leading the Lake High School girls' softball team to a second-place finish in the 2018 Mississippi High School Activities Association Class 2A State Tournament. In 11 seasons as a head coach, he has won two Class 4A state championships at East Central High School in Hurley, three Class 5A championships at Wayne County High School in Waynesboro, and led Darton State College in Albany, Ga., to an NJCAA Region 17 championship and appearance in the NJCAA Division I National Championship Tournament.



Cyber Camp

In conjunction with Mississippi State University, ECCC hosted a free GenCyber Camp for girls grades two through five on campus. Campers learned about cyber security and received a free Sphero programmable robot. The camp filled to capacity almost immediately and a waiting list for prospective campers was formed.



Student-Athlete Academic Honors

Seventy-five ECCC student-athletes were honored by either the NJCAA or MACJC, or both organizations, for their academic performance during the 2017-18 school year. In all, 45 ECCC student-athletes were recognized by the NJCAA with either First Team, Second Team, or Third Team NJCAA All-Academic, and 75 were honored by the MACJC with either Distinguished Academic All-State or Academic All-State. East Central was third among all 15 community and junior colleges in Mississippi in the number of student-athletes honored by the NJCAA.

PBL National Honors

Members of the Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda received 10 awards at the organization's 2018 National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Md. Students from across the United States participated in the conference to enhance their business skills. Theta Chi chapter won two first place awards and \$1,000 in cash prizes both in the Computer Animation and Parliamentary Procedure categories. The group also received a \$1,000 March of Dimes grant, was recognized as second place overall for March of Dimes fundraising efforts, was one of only two schools in the state of Mississippi named a Gold Seal chapter, and received PBL Outstanding Recognition, which was awarded to only 10 chapters in the nation.



Athletic Team Academic Success

Led by the Lady Warrior softball team, six East Central varsity sports teams earned NJCAA Academic Team of the Year Honorable Mention awards for having met the grade-point average requirement of 3.00 or better for the 2017-18 academic year. With a 3.67 team GPA, the ECCC women's softball team led all softball programs in the 15-team MACJC and finished tied for second among all softball programs in the NJCAA. The ECCC women's soccer, women's tennis, men's tennis, baseball, and men's soccer teams also were recognized.

SkillsUSA Awards

ECCC Career & Technical Education students received numerous awards during the 54th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Competition in Louisville, Ky. More than 16,000 people, including students, teachers and business partners, participated in the weeklong event. Awards included third place in Early Childhood Education, sixth in Prepared Speech, 17th in Cosmetology, fourth in Job Interview, 22nd in Carpentry, and 13th in Extemporaneous Speech.

Board of Trustees



Dr. Kimsey Cooper
Leake



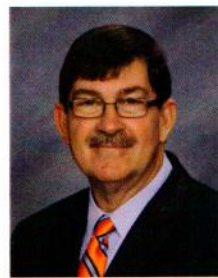
W.B. Jones
Leake



William Kitchings
Leake



Alan Rhea
Leake (Secretary)



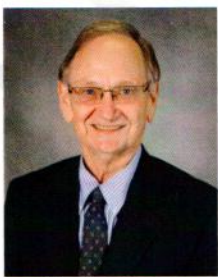
Billy Mack Wilbanks
Leake Supt. of Education



Janie Wilbanks
Leake



David Byars
Neshoba



Edsel Cliburn
Neshoba



Prentice Copeland
Neshoba



Ricky Goldman
Neshoba



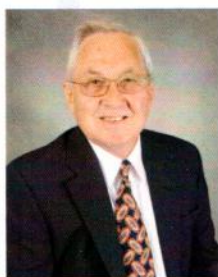
Dr. Lundy Brantley
Supt. of Education



Jerry Smith
Neshoba
(Vice Chairman)



J.O. Amis
Supt. of Education



Rodney Bounds
Newton



Pat Cleveland
Newton



Beverly Hart
Newton



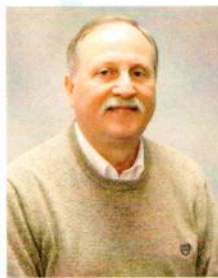
Dr. Danny Lanier
Newton



Van Lucas
Newton



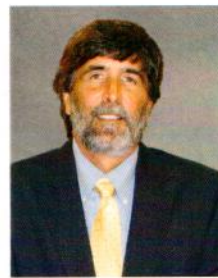
Rebecca Farris
Scott



John Johnson
Scott



Dr. Tony McGee
Supt. of Education



Tommy Harrison
Scott



Dr. Jimmy
Hollingsworth
Scott (Chairman)



Annie Stowers
Scott



Patsy Clark
Winston



Delane Hudson
Winston



Randal Livingston
Winston



Ken McMullan
Supt. of Education



Jerry Nance
Winston



Leo Parker
Winston



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